

Going Up and Coming Down

Hollywood Cinema gets exterior makeover

After several years working to restore the interior, the owner, Matthew Timpson, is now moving onto expensive exterior work to preserve these iconic buildings. This includes a complete re-roofing of both buildings (the cinema and the old town hall). The internal gutters need attention which is always a challenge. While the scaffolding is up, they are taking the opportunity to do an exterior repaint of the walls. The estimated project cost is more that \$200K which is a huge commitment for a small business.

It is amazing how Matthew and the team have brought this venue back to life as a vibrant location for live events and film showings. They have created an adaptable space that can accommodate seated or standing audiences, and the old town hall space also adds flexibility.

Already, people in the community have shown appreciation for the care being taken to curate these Category B historic buildings. The complex is actually three different buildings with three different construction dates, complicated by the



fact that the old town hall started life where the cinema now stands, then got moved sideways and replaced by the cinema. The third building is the concrete part which includes the steps, façade and front rooms in two levels.

The timeline:

1867 – Original wooden town hall, with a porch, is built on the site of the current cinema. This building was also

used as a cinema, dating from the Boer War period.

1915 – Wooden porch is removed, and the brick frontage building is constructed. It includes the steps, a brass dome on the roof and rooms for the Road Board. The dome was removed in the 1950s as an earthquake risk.

1923 – The original town hall building behind the brick frontage gets moved sideways to its present position.

1924 – The new town hall (now the Hollywood) was completed behind the 1915 frontage building.

There is only one blurry image of the original town hall in all its glory with its brick frontage building and the dome on top. It looks really grand. Now having been stripped of the bling and moved sideways to its present location it looks very forlorn and dejected. Hopefully, a new roof and paint job will help lift its image.



New Lynn Corner Café (The Old Woodshop Corner Café)

The old shop on the corner of Hutchinson and Margate was recently demolished. The café closed for renovations last winter and so far, the rear has been rebuilt. It looks like the front will be starting again from scratch.

In July 2020, the café announced *"WE'RE CLOSING! Time has come for our long-awaited renovation of the premise. Work is deemed extensive, so we expect to re-open after several months. We're excited to bring you guys something fresh once we've reopened, no doubt it's well deserved"*.

The project is currently paused waiting for council consent on some revised plans. After experiencing a few problems along the way, owner Maahir is reluctant to promise a firm date yet for reopening the café.

